

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

SP-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 PM-05 MCT-01 /070 W

-----126419 061650Z /43

O 061615Z MAR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9881

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 00780

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PORG, ASEC, ARAB LEAGUE

SUBJECT: EPS COVERAGE NEW YORK CITY

1. WHITE HOUSE MEMO OF FEB 6, 1978 APPROVED EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE (EPS) COVERAGE PRESENTLY IN EFFECT NEW YORK CITY FOR PERIOD OF 30 DAYS COMMENCING FEB 19, 1978. PREVIOUS WHITE HOUSE MEMORANDA DIRECTED THAT NEED FOR EXTENSION BEYOND 30 DAY PERIOD BE SUPPORTED WITH ADDITIONAL INFO.

2. EPS COVERAGE IS BEING PROVIDED, DURING BUSINESS HOURS, AT FOL LOCATIONS NEW YORK CITY. ALL ARE ABOVE STREET LEVEL: ISRAELI UN MISSION, SYRIAN UN MISSION, CONSULATE GENERAL OF EGYPT, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.

3. SITUATION UNDERLYING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING EPS AT POSTS REQUESTED REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. LEVEL OF TENSION CONTINUES HIGH, EXASPERBATED BY A PALESTINIAN INVOLVEMENT IN MURDER AND HI-JACKING INCIDENT IN CYPRUS. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. SINCE USUN'S LAST JUSTIFICATION OF EPS COVERAGE NEW YORK CITY, THERE HAVE BEEN 4 PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS AT EGYPTIAN MISSION SPONSORED BY RECENTLY FORMED MILITANT PRO-ISRAEL GROUP KNOWN AS "JEWISH COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED." EGYPTIAN CONSULATE GENERAL HAS RECEIVED 8-10 HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS CONCERNING THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS. RESIDENCE OF HIGH UN OFFICIAL OF EGYPTIAN NATIONALITY

WAS FIREBOMBED FEB 5, 1978. CREDIT FOR FIREBOMBING TAKEN BY "JEWISH COMMITTEE OF CONCERNED." THIS ORGANIZATION IS ALSO OPERATING OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY. THERE HAVE BEEN 2 FIREBOMBINGS IN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND, FOR WHICH THEY HAVE TAKEN CREDIT.

5. DURING MONTH OF FEB LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES RECEIVED MORE THAN A DOZEN ANTI-ARAB COMMUNICATIONS. THESE ARE BOTH HARASSING AND INTIMIDATING.

6. ON FEB 28, OFFICE BUILDING AT 747 THIRD AVE, INCLUDING LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, EVACUATED AS RESULT OF BOMB THREAT, WHICH PROVED UNFOUNDED.

7. PLO OFFICE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE INTIMIDATING AND THREATENING CALLS AND LETTERS. DURING MONTH OF FEB THIS TOTALED 18 TELEPHONE CALLS AND 20 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS. COMMUNICATION LOGS MAINTAINED BY PLO AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES HAVE BEEN VERIFIED BY FBI IN ACCORDANCE PROVISIONS ALIEN REGISTRATION ACT.

8. DURING MONTH OF FEB SYRIAN MISSION REPORTED TO NEW YORK POLICE RECEIPT OF 8 LETTERS AND 12 TELEPHONE CALLS DESCRIBED AS INTIMIDATING OR THREATENING, WHICH CONDEMNED POLICIES OF GOVT OF SYRIA.

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9. ON MARCH 2, MISOFF RECEIVED CALL FROM SECOND SECRETARY EL-SAID OF EGYPTIAN MISSION. CONTACT WAS AT DIRECTION OF AMB MEGUID. MESSAGE CONVEYED WAS THAT EGYPTIAN MISSION HAD BEEN INFORMED BY EGYPTIAN INTELLIGENCE THAT RECENT INFO INDICATES AMB MEGUID IS PRIME TARGET FOR POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING OR ASSASSINATION. (MEGUID TRAVELED TO JERUSALEM.) EL-SAID SOUGHT ADVICE ON ADDITIONAL STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN FOR AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTION. IT WAS AGREED USUN WOULD OBTAIN ADDITIONAL NEW YORK CITY POLICE COVERAGE FOR BOTH AMBASSADOR AND HIS RESIDENCE. NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICIALS MEETING WITH EGYPTIANS MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES.

10. IN SUMMARY, THERE IS NO INDICATION OF A SUBSIDING OF THE LEVEL OF TENSION INVOLVING MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. ON THE CONTRARY, INTRA-ARAB FRICTION HAS INCREASED AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS PRESS STORIES OF ALLEGED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER RADICAL ARAB INTENTIONS TO TAKE REPRISALS AGAINST EGYPTIANS AND THOSE MODERATE ARABS WHO SUPPORT THE EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVE. THE

MURDER LAST WEEK OF THE DITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AL-AHRAM
IN NICOSIA AND THE ENSUING MELEE AT THE AIRPORT IS
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THIS FRICTION. THE PLO PERMANENT
OBSERVER HIMSELF, A SELF-DEFINED HARDLINER, HAS
REFERRED TO PRESS ACCOUNTS OF THE PLO'S TAKING ALL
POSSIBLE MEASURES TO HALT THE EGYPTIAN PEACE EFFORTS.
THE UPCOMING VISIT OF PM BEGIN TO THE US IN MID-MARCH
MUST ALSO BE KEPT IN MIND IN JUDGING THE LEVEL OF
TENSION INVOLVING MIDDLE EAST NATIONS. YOUNG

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